Synopsis

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY INDIA: A POST–COLONIAL STUDY OF VIKAS SWARUP'S NOVELS

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Introduction:

The life of a nation has been shaped by its writers and philosophers. Art can never separate itself wholly from social concerns. The socially committed writers stand as a beacon amid the darkness of human life. Indian English writers have always, directly or indirectly, engaged with contemporary social, political and economic realities. Indian English novelists have chronicled the history, socio-political consciousness, changing culture and traditions and socio-economic concerns of India in the colonial, post-colonial and post-independence eras. So, it is impossible to separate the fictional world from the contemporary realities. In this context, the proposed research aims to understand contemporary realities through the post colonial study of the novels of Vikas Swarup.

The post-colonial study is resonant with all the ambiguity and complexity of many different cultural experiences it implicates. It involves all the characteristics of term post-colonial which discusses about experience of various kinds: poverty, slavery, suppression, resistance, representation, difference, race, gender, place, responses, identity, life force, history, philosophy, abusing, polity, corruption, crime and exploitation. A novelist shows citizens crushed by society and fate, history and politics playing an active redemptive role in active life. In order to present the post colonial nation, Vikas Swarup make use of communities and geography, the metropolises of Bombay, Delhi, Bangalore and the Slums, Chawls, town and India.

Vikas Swarup (born 1963) has been acclaimed for his novels in order to understand contemporary India. Swarup's *Q & A* (2005) (adapted in film as *Slumdog Millionaire*), *Six Suspects* (2008) and *The Accidental Apprentice* (2013) broaden the canvas to encompass both the cities and the villages of post-colonial India, from North to south and East to West. The setting is India in the new millennium, marked by incredible progress, appalling poverty and a decadent polity. Characters from every walk of life cutting across barriers of age, gender, class, caste and creed- shape and are shaped by the changing contours of the Indian nation-state. The response of the citizens to forces that increasingly after their fates is effectively captured.

Vikas Swarup is significant writers of India English novels who depicted heart shaking urban and sub-urban real facts of contemporary India in his novels. In this regard, the Library Journal comments that the novels of Swarup are "enriched by the sights and smells of contemporary India, this mystery shows Swarup to be a skillful prose stylist and deft handler of plot, who's likely to win more readers". So, the novels of Vikas Swarup are selected for detailed analysis in the present study. This study means to understand the different issues in India, today, presented by Vikas Swarup.

Objective of Research:

i To evaluate the fictional representation of Contemporary India.
ii. To critique the select novels as historical documents and post-independence studies.
iii. To assess how the select novels help in understanding Contemporary India.
iv. To explore socio-political consciousness, changing culture and traditions and socio-economic concerns of India in the post-independence era.
v. To examine the contemporary realities presented in the fictional world of Vikas Swarup.
vi. To examine the post-colonialism in the fictional world of Vikas Swarup.

Research Methodology:

The proposed research will be pursued by using the basic methods of literary research such as close reading, interpretation, explication, analysis and evaluation. However, the main object is to understand contemporary India in the light of novels of Vikas Swarup, the theory of Post-colonialism is used as its paradigm. The Post-colonialism is preoccupied with experience of various kinds: poverty, slavery, suppression, resistance, representation, difference, race, gender, place, responses, identity, life force, history, philosophy, abusing, polity, corruption, crime and exploitation.

Hypotheses:

The Present research would be based on the assumptions:

i. The fictional world of Vikas Swarup reflects contemporary India.
ii. Vikas Swarup's *Q & A* mirrors the abuses life of contemporary India like drug, poverty, crime, begging and corruption.
iii. *Six Suspects* unfolds portraits of twenty first century India. It examines the modern criminal world, politics, corruption, poverty, and greed of India today.
iv. *The Accidental Apprentice* explores various forms of corruption in contemporary India.
v. The realities in contemporary India portrayed in the novels of Vikas Swarup to be understood in the lights of post-colonialism.

The Scope and Limitations of Research:

The broad area of the present study is Indian English novels written in post-colonial era. The novels of Vikas Swarup are selected for the close analysis in the perspectives of understanding contemporary India. The present study will be confined to the following novels:
Vikas Swarup's *Q & A* (2005), *Six Suspects* (2008) and *The Accidental Apprentice* (2013)

Justification for Research:

Several aspects relating to contemporary India of the writer chosen for the study has not received adequate critical attention in recent times. This proposed research therefore assumes significance in attempting to trace understanding contemporary India in all manifestations. The understanding contemporary India in the novels of Vikas Swarup with reference of the post-colonial study is of greater relevance today.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

The present research study will be organized around the following tentative chapter scheme.

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter, Introduction, will deal with the basic introductory aspects like contribution of contemporary Indian English writers in order to understand contemporary India. It will also cover the biographical details of Vikas Swarup. In addition, it covers contribution of Vikas Swarup to the world of fiction and his location in the Indian English Literature. It ends with review of research and recent development in Indian English Literature.

Chapter II: Understanding Contemporary India: A Post- colonial Study of Vikas Swarup's *Q & A*

The second chapter will deal with the problems which are being faced today in India by Indians as poverty, Corruption, break down of law, life force, abuse of women, children and self realization portrayed through Swarup's *Q & A.* The novel uses the perspective of a street-child who has won a billion in a quiz shows and the cinematic format to visualize twenty first century India. It reflects almost every national issue - slums and poverty, the world of glamour, corruption, breakdown of law and order, abuse of women and children. Vikas Swarup does not view slums as places of despair as but places full of Industries and energetic people trying to defeat poverty. His message has particular resonance in developing countries. When Ram throws away his lucky coin and asserts that luck comes from within, it is an assertion on behalf of all subalterns, of the citizen's victory over unjust forces and fate.

Chapter III: Understanding Contemporary India: A Post-colonial Study of Vikas Swarup's *Six Suspects*

The third chapter will examine the modern criminal world, politics, corruption, poverty, and greed of India today through Swarup's riveting, modern-day crime thriller novel, *Six Suspects.* The novel is about life, politics, corruption and greed in contemporary India which centers the mission of India's leading investigative journalist, Arun Advani to nail the murderer of the son of a high-profile minister. The characters of novel re-present a distinct aspect of national life through the kaleidoscopic portrait of twenty-first century India. Their lives become synonymous with the story of

the nation creating a fine interplay of the personal and the national.

Chapter IV: Understanding Contemporary India: A Post-colonial Study of Vikas Swarup's *The Accidental Apprentice*

The fourth chapter will explore various forms of corruption in contemporary India portrayed in Swarup's third novel, *The Accidental Apprentice.* As Sapna Sinha, a sales girl in an electronic boutique in Delhi, bites into an unusual seven step challenge to become the CEO of ABC group of companies, owned by Vinay Mohan Archarya, one of India's richest businessmen, Swarup skillfully presents an India is in transition, running fast to keep its tryst with destiny.

Chapter V: Summing up

The last chapter sums-up the study and makes a comprehensive comparative statement on the major analyses done in the earlier chapters in order to understand contemporary India through the post-colonial study of Vikas Swarup's novels.

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